WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

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ANN ARBOR NEWSPAPER SERVICE IN THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY

By R. Ray Baker
Associate Editor, Ann Arbor News

Such comprehensive histories of Ann Arbor newspapers of earlier eras have been written that in this sketch I will not venture on ground well covered by Louis W. Doll, O. W. Stephenson, and others. Rather I will confine myself to the past quarter of a century, a period within the scope of my own knowledge, and to one paper, The Ann Arbor News, with which I have been more or less directly associated through much of that time. In dealing with this period and with this paper, I am taking up where Dr. Doll leaves off in his treatise, "History of the Newspapers of Ann Arbor."

Dr. Doll, commenting on the ultimate consolidation of several predecessors of The News into one paper and of the purchase of the paper by its present owners, strikes a pessimistic note. He says:

> Although the Ann Arbor News of today is a very different organ from its predecessors, there remains a historical continuity expressed superficially in the numbering. The Ann Arbor News of May 17, 1942, for instance, is Volume 108, number 118, laying claim to the numbering of the Argus series established on February 5, 1835, by purchase of the Argus first by Glazier's Ann Arbor News and through purchase of the latter and its absorption in the Daily Times-News.
>
> Much has no doubt been gained in operating efficiency by the consolidation, but a great deal has been lost, particularly in respect to adequate representation of public opinion. The conservatism of the large corporation is an undeniable fact; the newspaper publishing corporations are no exception. Perhaps the second century of Ann Arbor's

> newspaper history will see the combination of the monopolistic efficiency of the modern newspaper with the adequate representation of at least the major groups of public opinion.

I have expressed to Dr. Doll my disagreement with his implied conclusions. My own view, based on close to half a century of active newspaper experience and of intensive study of changing phases of newspaper service, is that a newspaper that covers news happenings comprehensively and objectively and provides adequate supplementary information and factual backgrounds furnishes its readers with a far sounder foundation for intelligent public opinion than did papers of an era when most newspapers were political organs or servers of special interests. Information - objective information - is a bulwark of democracy. My observation is that when the people are given all angles of a public issue and are kept free from emotionalism or prejudice their composite judgement will usually prove fair and sound.

The Ann Arbor News today, I contend, is providing far better newspaper service than its predecessors, and in so doing is better serving the public interest and offering a much broader and more adequate representation of public opinion. The very fact that it enjoys a monopoly imposes upon it the obligation of dealing fully and fairly with all views, persons, and parties. An honest and unprejudiced survey of The Ann Arbor News during last fall's political campaign will, I feel, demonstrate this point.

Arthur W. Stace has had more or less close connections with the paper during the quarter of a century it has been part of the Booth group, and has had a part in shaping its editorial policies, a small part at first, a large part in the past ten years. The Ann Arbor Times-News was purchased by the Booth Publishing company (now Booth Newspapers, Inc.) from R. T. Dobson, on October 1, 1919, although the change in ownership did not take effect until January 1, 1920.

No immediate staff changes were made with the change in ownership. Harley Johnson, who had been managing editor from 1909 when Mr. Dobson acquired the paper, was continued in his position. So was Robert D. Van Alstin, who had been advertising manager under Mr. Dobson, and who now became business manager. Mr. Van Alstin continued as manager until November, 1920, when Clare H. McKinley, then of the business staff of the Flint Journal, was transferred to Ann Arbor to become manager of the Times-News. When Mr. Johnson was forced to lay down his duties in 1922 because of a lingering fatal illness, Conrad N. Church became acting managing editor, and later, when Mr. Johnson died, he became managing editor. Mr. Church was ambitious to own a paper of his own, and when the opportunity came in 1923, he resigned. R. Ray Baker, then telegraph editor of the Grand Rapids Press, was chosen to succeed him, assuming his duties on November 19, 1923. Mr. Church later became managing editor of the Pontiac Press, a position he still holds.

The Times-News had secured the Associated Press "pony" service in 1909. It received some 500 to 1,000 words of news each day over Western Union wires, the copy being delivered by messenger boys. In 1917, with the entrance of the United States into World War I, the Times-News inaugurated Associated Press leased-wire service. An operator was installed in the office, and he received from 14,000 to 16,000 words a day, taking the report down on a typewriter. When Booth Newspapers took charge, various other facilities became available, including service from the Booth Washington and Lansing bureaus, and various features that were purchased by the papers as a group.

In 1929 came the depression. It became a struggle for newspapers to go on. Plans for development had to wait for better days.

Late in 1934, when President Charles M. Greenway invited Mr. Stace to return to the Booth organization, he stressed the thought that these better days had arrived, that the time for the realization of some of the early dreams for the Ann Arbor paper and for an Ann Arbor Bureau was at hand. Mr. Greenway died suddenly on December 1, 1934, one month before Mr. Stace was to join the organization, but the plans had already been discussed by the Board of Directors and they were carried out as intended.

The situation appeared ideal for the setting up of an Ann Arbor Bureau on a sound basis. R. Ray Baker had been managing editor of the Times-News for 11 years. He knew Ann Arbor and the University well. He had written frequently on University matters. He became a liason writer between the University and the people of Michigan. His articles have appeared in all eight of the papers.

With Mr. Baker as scientific writer and University interpreter the service of the Bureau grew in importance. Other writers also contributed, including Mill Marsh, sports editor of the Ann Arbor News. And other men were in training for research work on state problems and issues and opportunities when World War II came.

The war forced a curtailment of the Bureau's activities, but its work still goes on. There will be opportunities for greater development after the war, and a much greater demand for its statewide services.

The Ann Arbor News increased its news and information facilities from year to year. It took on the United Press leased-wire service in 1932. The Associated Press service has been gradually enlarged until now, instead of a maximum of 16,000 words a day, The News receives around 60,000 to 80,000 words a day over two Associated Press teletype machines, and another 20,000 to 27,000 over the United Press teletype. And this mass of material is from all corners of the world, from a much larger and a higher grade corps of correspondents than in the old days.

Other services have been built up. In pictures, The News enjoys the output of the four leading picture agencies in all the world:- The Associated Press, NEA, International News, and Central

Press. Instead of running hit or miss pictures days after the news event to which they relate, The News now receives Associated Press wirephotos hot off the wire - coming as fast as the news - pictures that were taken in Okinawa a few hours before, or on the European battle fronts, or in South America. This wirephoto service is now relayed from Detroit, but as soon as war priorities are lifted a machine will be installed in The News office.

There have been other developments, including the building up of a University trained staff, designed to give intelligent consideration not only to Ann Arbor's social, economic, and municipal problems, but those of all Michigan as well. The war has scattered many of this staff, but most of them will, we hope, return and their work will go on.

The News is distinctly a home-edited paper. The owning company provides the editor with facilities for giving newspaper service of the highest grade. It is up to him to use the facilities to best advantage. The better the newspaper serves its community, the better it serves its management.

Ann Arbor News Line of Descent - Names of Papers in its Lineage

1835, Feb. 5--Michigan Argus weekly
1840--Became Free Democrat
1844--A new Michigan Argus appeared, soon merged with Free Democrat under latter name
1878--Became Ann Arbor Argus
1898--Argus merged with Ann Arbor Democrat
1898, Nov.--Ann Arbor Argus became a daily. Weekly edition continued as The Ann Arbor Argus-Democrat
1900--Argus combined with Washtenaw Times, a daily. One published in morning, other in evening
1902--Daily Argus (which had been leased by Ann Arbor Printing Company) returned to Argus-Democrat Publishing Company
1906--Ann Arbor News appeared
1907--Daily Argus absorbed by Ann Arbor Daily Times
1908--Ann Arbor News combined with Argus in Jan., becoming News Argus
1908, June--Combined with Ann Arbor Daily Times, becoming News-Times-Argus
1909--R. T. Dobson purchased The Daily Times, combined papers
1919--Booth Newspapers, Inc., publish Ann Arbor Times-News, continuing the name
1928--The Times News became the Ann Arbor Daily News
1936--The Ann Arbor Daily News changed its name to The Ann Arbor News

Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 13, 1945

THE NEWSPAPERS OF CHELSEA*

By Archie W. Wilkinson
Lawyer, Former Owner of Chelsea Standard

The newspapers of Chelsea first started in 1871 and since that time have been owned and published principally by three men, Andrew Allison, Orrin T. Hoover, and Marion W. McClure. These men were all printers and publishers rather than editors, and all have been successful.

Andrew Allison started the Chelsea Herald in September, 1871, and owned it until about 1884, when he sold it to Rev. Thomas Holmes. In the early years he had as apprentices two Frisbie boys, Orrin and Eugene, who afterwards, especially Eugene, became very prominent in Adventist newspapers all over the United States and Canada. Allison also had as editor a Mr. Brockway who about 1874 went to the Jackson Citizen, in Jackson, Michigan.

Allison was a Scotchman, ran a Washington press, did job work by foot power, traded watches, advertised wedding notices "with a cake or no cake statement after the notice." He had offices above my father's store, from whom he rented during 1871 to 1882. I never saw him come down the stairs without going back to try his door to see that it was locked. After he had been there awhile the plaster jarred off the ceiling and he would come down to my father to fix it. But before we could do so he would ask us to wait till he got out the paper. We would go through this performance about four times a year, and we never did get the plaster fixed in the eleven years he rented of us.

Allison sold the Herald to the Rev. Thomas Holmes in 1883 or 1884. Dr. Holmes believed that he was an editor because he had helped edit the History of Washtenaw County in 1880, about which he knew little or nothing. Holmes lasted about two years and resold to Andrew Allison, who again about 1897 sold the paper to Tom Mingay, who came up from the Argus. Mingay ran the Herald until 1902 or 1903, when he sold it to Glazier interests and it was incorporated with the Chelsea-Standard (which Glazier had already acquired) under the name of Standard-Herald.

About 1882, William Emmert came to town and started the Chelsea Standard. He ran it in connection with a grocery store until 1890 when he sold the grocery stock, and later, 1891 or 1892, sold the Standard to Orrin T. Hoover. Mr. Hoover owned the Standard until 1902 or 1903 when, being at that time postmaster, he sold the paper to Frank P. Glazier, and it was edited by Glenn Stimson, Glazier's nephew.

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*Read by title only at the April 13, 1945, meeting.

Glenn was a real editor and edited the Standard until 1904 or 1905, when he went to Ann Arbor and established The Ann Arbor News, afterward acquired by the Warren interests. Glenn and I, while he was in Chelsea, used to write up features for New York papers, and I remember one we wrote about Sir John Reed, who lived north of Chelsea. The so-called "Sir John" impersonated an English nobleman who was supposed to have lost his estate through dishonesty of a servant. William D. Harriman, an Ann Arbor lawyer, even looked up some of the Reeds and went way over to England to try to recover the estate.

After Stimson left Chelsea the paper, under the name of the Standard-Herald, ran itself and made money until the final Glazier catastrophe in 1908, when Orrin T. Hoover and I acquired it and again changed its name to The Chelsea Standard. I sold my half to Hoover in 1914 and Hoover, again being postmaster, sold to Marion W. McClure in 1920. Mr. McClure soon afterward acquired another paper, the Tribune, that had been started in Glazier's time about 1903 and had been owned by Hall, Young, Ford Axtel, and a Mr. Clissner.

Mr. McClure has owned the Standard since 1920, when he acquired it from Hoover, up to the present time. It is the only paper in Chelsea. With modern machinery and with the same help that Hoover and I used to employ, even as late as 1914, McClure does more work and makes more money in a month than we used to make in a year. McClure doesn't pretend to be an editor, but he's a whale of a business man.

In 1885 a young man, Orrin Hoffman, came to Chelsea and went to work on the Herald as a printer. He worked for Herald, Herald-Standard, Standard,-- all one paper, through the ownerships of Allison, Mingay, Glazier, Hoover, and McClure, up to 1928, a period of 43 years. During Allison's second ownership of the Herald, Hoffman collected for the advertisements and job work and kept the subscription lists, as he also did under the Glazier regime and while Hoover and I owned the paper. During that time I never saw him sit down in the newspaper establishment, and the job-work power during a lot of the time was supplied by foot power. As he was a decently heavy man, 43 years standing was a long time. While Stimson was editor of the Ann Arbor News, whenever they would get stuck for help, we would send Hoffman down to make paper and get out display ads for Stimson. He retired from the Standard under McClure in 1928, and has since died. He was about my age so would be 80 had he lived until now. I liked him, but he was stubborn. I could not change my own desk in my own building but the next day it would be back in the original position.

I have known all the owners and editors for the past 73 years, including, besides those already mentioned, Hall, Young, Axtell, Aherns, Brown,- each of which owned the Standard for only short periods in 1923 and 1928. McClure bought the paper back both times, so he has owned it continuously since 1920 except for these two six-month periods. The paper has been produced in buildings owned either by my father or myself for 35 years of this time.

Chelsea, Michigan
April 10, 1945

THE MANCHESTER ENTERPRISE

By Maver Blosser Lowery (Mrs. F. L.)

The Manchester Enterprise is a weekly paper. It had its start in 1867 under the ownership of the Manchester Printing Company, a group of citizens who saw the need of a newspaper in the community and purchased the equipment. It was edited and published by Mr. George S. Spafford for one year. In November, 1868, the paper was purchased by Mr. Mat. D. Blosser, a young man who had learned the trade in his home town of Tecumseh but was at the time employed in New York City.

In the early years of the paper, German textbooks were printed and bound in a bindery operated by Mr. Blosser's father, P. F. Blosser. Volumes of current magazines were also bound. Fred H. Blosser, after leaving school, together with his sister, now Mrs. B. F. Burtless, assisted their father for a number of years.

In 1915, Fred returned from Seattle, Washington, where he had been employed on a city paper, and became a valued associate in the business and a leader in the community until his death in 1928. At this time H. H. Farley became a member of the force, and in 1939 the business was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Farley, who are the present owners.

Mat. D. Blosser was continuous owner and publisher for 71 years. He passed on in 1941 at the age of 94 years, 7 months.

Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 13, 1945

HISTORY OF THE MILAN LEADER

By Mrs. Lucile De Ryke
Editor and Publisher

"Happy the people whose annals are blank in history books" might well be said of The Milan Leader. Its history is interwoven with that of the town, and only the lover of a small town, of its slow growth, the worth of its pioneers, its gradual changes, can find much of interest in its history.

Milan is located on the Saline River, partly in Milan Township of Monroe County and partly in York Township of Washtenaw County. The dividing line of the two counties passes through the town, which is however mostly on the Washtenaw side. Most of the early history of York Township centers around Milan, York, and Mooreville.

On March 7, 1824, an American pioneer settled in the wilderness which is now York Township. The developments which followed steadily formed the background for our newspaper story: the first log house in 1830, the first flour mill in 1834, the first school in 1837; next year the first road, where the present road runs to Monroe, brought in 5 toll gates and 8 or 10 hotels. The first postoffice was opened at Milan in 1833, then known as Tolansville or Farmers.

In 1882, feeling that the town was now really established, two enterprising men decided that it was time for a newspaper. They were A. B. Smith and A. E. Putman, who owned the general store. Two years later Putman sold his interest to Smith, who published the paper until 1906. Great excitement prevailed while the two earnest young men produced a newspaper each week, neither having had any previous experience, and having but the crudest of equipment,-- still, it was quite a paper! Four pages 12½ by 20, and 5 columns. It was especially devoted to the interests of Milan and vicinity. As may be seen in Volume 11, Number 14 (on display here) the first page is devoted to literature, a poem occupying the upper left-hand spot. On the second page is news of the week, and this covers all parts of the world. A child's story appears on the third page, along with advertisements of many patent medicines. As is the custom to this day, the outlying districts are covered: Mooreville, London, Cone, and Azalia. Business locals, legals, and a market report are given. Local brevities are nicely graduated starting with a two-word item, "June 1," and ending with a grewsome bit about the body of an infant being found in the swamp, the murder still unsolved. Most important were the time schedules of the railroad, as both the Wabash and the Toledo, Ann Arbor and Grand Trunk passed through Milan. Topics of the times, more stories, business cards and ads fill up the remaining space. Terms were $1.25 a year, strictly in advance $1.00.

By talking to old settlers, we found that at one time a rival paper, called the Milan Gazette, was published for a couple of years in the small town, but did not survive long.

A. B. Smith in 1889 sold out to William Houseman, another local man, who published it until 1906. It then became the property of Frank Gates who, with his wife, came from Saginaw. Although he was not accustomed to a small town, he adjusted himself very well, took an interest in the growth of the town and erected the building which today houses the plant. He only remained until 1912, as his wife was frail, when he sold to L. B. Johnson. Two years previously he had sold the buildings and his other property in the town, and he moved to Hart, Michigan.

Mr. Johnson came from Kalamazoo where for two years he had been engaged in a commercial printing plant, but had always been looking for another newspaper. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were practical printers, having worked at the trade all their lives, in fact Mrs. Johnson held a union card from Portland, Oregon, in the year 1891. They had owned the Hartford Day Spring at one time. Social by nature, a great lover of mankind and a small town, Mr. Johnson was delighted with his new location, and about that time Milan began really to change. Pavements were laid out in the summer of 1912, and the really wonderful mud produced by the river and the clay soil disappeared from Main Street.

The business places were well established and the business men were young, many with sons coming on to carry on the family name and trade. There was not much wealth but it was a progressive community and, in contrast to the fruit country to which he was accustomed, the dairy checks gave the farmers a steady income. Civic-minded, he established the first Commercial Club of the business men while Mrs. Johnson organized the Milan Woman's Club and served as its first president. He had great hopes for the development of an artificial lake on what was then the flats, and would have gloried in the improvement it has made in the town since Mr. Ford took it over.

He was only privileged to carry on the work he loved for seven years, as he died in 1919, due to the strain of overwork and worry over the war. However, Mrs. Johnson immediately took over the control, pursued the same policies of tolerance and progress until Everett De Ryke, her son-in-law, returned from World War I. The daughter had inherited her parents' love of printer's ink and had been associated with them in the business since finishing school. Mr. De Ryke learned the business and worked with Mrs. Johnson until her retirement in 1937. It was her chief interest and concern until the day of her death.

During the following years, Mr. De Ryke carried on, but the heart interest had gone from the work, as he had many other things on his mind. He served on the Welfare Committee for the County, established the Wolverine Boys State, and was very active in the American Legion, serving as Department Commander. He was also Executive Secretary of the State Council for National Defense. During his absence, Lucile J. De Ryke carried on The Milan Leader, and when he left finally, in September, 1943, assumed entire control of both it and the Dundee Reporter, acquired the previous year.

Years of training in the policies of country newspapers, a genuine love for and faith in the community made the task possible, and an increased subscription list has resulted the past year in spite of the drastic shortage of skilled help. While The Milan Leader had always carried two full-time men besides Mr. De Ryke, who had learned every phase of the business, it was necessary to carry on both papers with the aid of only one man and such part-time assistance as neighboring printers could give. This has also necessitated using high school boys, and sometimes one wonders if it is a print shop or a youth center!

The Milan Leader has always been liberal in policy, but as there have never been any serious controversaries in the town, the growth has been gradual, the changes and improvements timely, and all has worked out well, even if it may not make very interesting reading.

The chief contributing factors in the growth and beauty of Milan are: the two furnace factories, the Ideal and the American; the Saco Manufacturing Company; the Ypsilanti State Hospital, built and dedicated in the year 1931; the Federal Correctional Institution, built and operated in 1933; Mr. Ford's project, begun in 1936 and finished in 1938, which consists of changing the river bed, tearing away the old bridge, filling in and building the new bridge where the old mill race was located, the dam forming a lake where the flats used to be, and beautifying the 36-acre recreation park adjoining the river. The new Honor Roll has just been erected on this site.

In all improvement and progress The Milan Leader has had a part, encouraging, presenting the projects, and boosting always. However, it has ever been the aim of the editor to retain the old friendly small-town attitude, to know and represent the farming community, and help preserve that type of life which is only to be found in a small town.

Over 400 young men and women have left our environs to serve in the armed forces. An accurate record has been kept of their addresses, and the home-town paper is sent to them each week, as was done in World War I. For those overseas the local Community Fund pays half of the subscription rate, and volunteers help with the folding and mailing each Thursday afternoon. In this manner Milan hopes to keep her young people in touch with their community and foster a desire with each one to return to that town for their permanent home.

The churches have a page of their own and no gathering is too small to be duly recorded and special messages from all the pastors in the vicinity are carried at Christmas and Easter. Bond drives, the Community Chest, Red Cross, Community Council, and the Council of Veteran's Affairs are all potent interests of The Milan Leader, as well as the personal items which reveal the true life of a town, tears for those who have paid the supreme sacrifice, praise for those who have distinguished themselves, sympathy for the loved ones of those who fall by the way.

The Metropolitan papers carry the big news of the war and momentous events, and in this day every family has these papers, but the country paper still has its place, and we believe in it thoroughly. It is still the small people along the Main Street which stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific who make up a great part of our thinking people, and the home-town paper can wield a mighty influence if properly treated. This we feel is the function of the local newspaper.

Hard work? Yes. Long hours, problems, mechanical difficulties, shortages of materials, human relations to be maintained, ticklish problems to be handled. But each week's issue a challenge, trying to offer something to uplift, instruct, or improve the community. Never reaching one's expectations, never quite satisfied, always handicapped in some way,- but a wonderful life. To one born with printer's ink in her veins, who spent her childhood in the noise of a newspaper office, who saw the transition from hand composition to the modern linotype, from presses kicked by foot, then a gasoline engine in the corner with belts and connections all over the place, to individual electric motors and all the wonders of new equipment,-- a miracle daily! Never an opportunity for real creative writing, for reading widely, for the research we would enjoy, we found our sentiments wonderfully expressed by Grace K. Ewart in the "Office Cat," a column of the Cuyahoga Falls News:

"Your opportunity is great,"
She said to me "to dissertate
In public print. Do use your might
To set the wrongs of this world right.
There is so much that you can do
When such a chance is given you,
Because you write."
Well, yes, I write. That's what they say;
Just simple happenings of the day.
The folks who come, the folks who go,
A baby born, they called him Joe,
A wedding and a bridal veil,
A neighbor moved, his house for sale,
A happy gathering of friends,
A quiet sleep, for so life ends.

I heard her say, "A talent spent
In pettiness. You should've sent
Wise weighty words out every day
To help this sad world on its way."
I think not so. In all the mess
Of war and greed and wickedness,
We minister to deepest needs,
Through happy homes and simple creeds;
Through love and friendliness which give
A meaning to the lives we live.
The world is now a sorry spot
Because these things we have forgot.

Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 13, 1945

THE WASHTENAW POST-TRIBUNE

By William T. Brownson
Editor

Lettered on the front window of the Washtenaw Post-Tribune office is the legend "Founded in 1857." The folio lines on our front page also indicate this founding date, by proclaiming the present year to be Volume 87.

Until the Washtenaw Historical Society requested a brief summary of the history of this newspaper I had never thought very deeply about it, and had heard only very generally about the past of the paper with which I have been associated for the past five years. The experience of looking up the following facts has been an interesting one, but I am sorry to state that my research, of necessity hurried, has not established the unbroken chain of the paper's history since it was founded.

The Washtenaw Post-Tribune apparently can be traced to one of two publications which were started in Ann Arbor in 1857. Gregory's American Newspapers -- 1821-1936, a union list of copies on file in the libraries of the United States and Canada, indicates that a newspaper known as Ann Arbor Local News and later as the Local News and Advertiser began publication as a weekly about July 21, 1857, and was still operating in 1860. The same source lists the Michigan State News as having begun publication in 1857 and copies are in existence dated as late as May 19, 1866. I have not been able to establish the chain which led to the Washtenaw Post, which made its appearance in 1879 under the ownership of Louis J. Leisemer. Since that date, however, a clear succession, including several mergers, can be traced.

The first copies bearing the name Washtenaw Post-Tribune appeared in 1894, indicating that a newspaper named the Tribune must have been absorbed about that year although copies of it do not seem to have survived. In 1894, the newspaper joined with Der Deutsche Hausfreund to form the Hausfreund und Post, continuing publication in the German language until January 3, 1918. Other names under which the paper was published include Der Neue Washtenaw Post, indicating some kind of upheaval about 1905 which necessitated hanging out the "under new management" sign.

Later in 1905 the name became again simply the Washtenaw Post, operating under that name until 1927, when the name was changed to the Washtenaw County Tribune. In 1928 it was shortened to the Washtenaw Tribune; and sometime after 1931, when the paper was made a tri-weekly under the ownership of Charles H. Hemingway, it was changed again to the Ann Arbor Tribune. After about five years as a tri-weekly, the paper was sold to Frank J. Russell, Sr., of Marquette, Michigan, a publisher who already owned three daily newspapers. It was re-converted to a weekly, resumed the old name of Washtenaw Post-Tribune, and has had that name since, through two changes in ownership.

One of the most interesting of the paper's tribulations, of which it apparently has had and certainly now has a great many, revolved about its position as a German-language paper during World War I. We now have only one complete volume of the German-language paper in our files. I have been told that the former publisher, Eugene Helber, took the German files with him when he turned over the management of the paper to his son, James Helber, and that they were later destroyed by fire.

The one complete German volume we have covers the period between March 2, 1916 and February 22, 1917. Although nearly all of the news and most of the advertisements are in German, a column of editorial comment in each issue is printed in English. Like many others, not all of them by any means of German descent, the publisher was strongly sympathetic to Germany and bitterly anti-British. British war guilt, scathing denunciations of Wilson's foreign policy, and praise for German military might are repeated themes in the column "The War as We See It."

There is then a gap in the files until September 13, 1917, when our volumes begin again. Whether the paper was forced to suspend publication when the United States entered the war I do not know. But significantly enough, the issues of late 1917 contain virtually no news. Page one is given over to installments of a long German novel. Later another novel by Rex Beach, printed in English, makes its appearance, also starting on page one and running interminably back through the paper.

Starting with the issue of November 1, 1917, two American flags make their appearance in the page one masthead. More and more items in English appear in the paper, and the editorial policy is plainly dedicated to assisting America's war effort.

The first issue of the new year, January 3, 1918, carries the following box, prominently displayed at the top of page one:

"AMERICA FIRST
is our New Year Resolution

Beginning with this issue, this paper will be printed in the English language. We feel that this is the proper thing to do, for English is the Universal language of this country and this country is also our country and our home -- the home of our children and our children's children. We are all Americans and we will all be loyal to our country and our government.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year,
Respectfully, The Editor."

This announcement is repeated in the same prominent position in the first four issues in January.

The German type in which even some of the English words were set up is now gone. Only one advertisement, that for Dr. Forni's "Alpenkraueter" (which by the way is still on sale at the Washtenaw Post-Tribune office, as it has been for more than fifty years)* continues to be printed in German.

Probably the assimilation of the German immigrants who arrived in such large numbers and the lack of interest in the mother tongue which normally becomes pronounced in the third generation, would eventually have ended any reason for publishing the paper in German. Certainly the stormy and confusing issues of World War I and the loyalty of the editorial policy to Germany's cause hastened the end of the foreign language era of the paper.

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*My own introduction to this medicine came soon after I became associated with the Post-Tribune. A very grave-looking gentleman came into the office and announced with assurance, "I want a bottle of Alpenkraueter."

Since this didn't register with me, I said tentatively, "This is the Washtenaw Post-Tribune office."

"Yes," he said stolidly, "I want a bottle of Alpenkraueter."

Further questions brought out the information that it was a patent medicine of unusual merit, upon which I advised the visitor to try a drug store, explaining "This is a newspaper office."

He didn't budge. "A bottle of Alpenkraueter," he demanded stubbornly, "it's in that drawer over there."

I looked and there was not only a full stock of the tonic but of several other remedies put out by the same company. Later I learned that we have had regular spring and fall customers who had been taking the medicine for 50 years. "I would be dead years ago without it," one white-bearded octogenarian told me.

Our attempt to discontinue this unusual sideline, after carrying it for more than 50 years, resulted in such a vigorous protest from the makers that we retreated. We still sell it!

Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 13, 1945

THE YPSILANTI DAILY PRESS
By J. Milton Barnes

The story of the Ypsilanti Daily Press is a tale of consolidation: The Sentinel, The Commercial which fell by the wayside, The Ypsilantian, the first Ypsilanti Daily Press, the Record, the Daily Ypsilantian-Press, and finally the greater Ypsilanti Daily Press

The earliest of these was the Ypsilanti Sentinel, founded by Charles Woodruff and continued until 1907 by Marcus Tullius Woodruff.

In 1880 Mr. Woodruff founded the Ypsilantian, a Republican paper. In those days a paper had to be partisan. Fred Green was for some time a reporter on this Ypsilantian, and when he ran for governor the wife of his campaign manager stated, "Secretly and at heart we're Democrats, but one can't be a Democrat in Ypsilanti."

In 1885 Mr. Woodruff sold his paper to Perry F. Powers and George C. Smithe. Mr. Powers and Mr. Green loved horses,- especially when they won! Our former governor was a small man, just the right size for a jockey, and rode many a horse to win. When I was in Cadillac two summers ago a banker there told me of races Perry Powers and Fred Green had with their fine horses on the Main Street of that city. Mr. Powers also owned the Cadillac News and sold it to T. O. Huckle, once Ypsilanti Press advertising manager.

William M. Osband, in 1888, purchased the interest of Mr. Powers in the Ypsilantian, and in 1893 Smithe's part. Mr. Osband had been a professor in Olivet College, and his wife, Lucy, was head of the Natural Science Department at the Normal College. Mr. Osband, too, was Republican, but his style was not as vindictive as many editors of that date. His daughter, Marna Osband, is still with our paper.

The Ypsilanti Daily Press was started in 1904, business men and others subscribing funds. It was published in the Curtis Block, now Board of Commerce Building. The editor, Frank T. Codrington, had been state editor of the Detroit Free Press. The business manager was Hugh E. Van de Walker, who came from Kalamazoo as clerk of the hotel in the Moorman Block. A feature of the administration of these men was a great Homecoming for the 75th anniversary of Ypsilanti's founding. Profit was made from advertising, badges, etc.

Codrington's successor was G. H. D. Sutherland, state editor of the Detroit News, a Hearst-style writer. Following him, J.Stuart Lathers, one of the first owners, was induced to take charge. Wm. B. Hatch, a young lawyer who was fond of airing his views on temperance and law enforcement (long dull articles they were until Press and Ypsilantian tired of them) married Eunice Lambie, daughter of Robert Lambie, a wealthy lumberman. William and Eunice bought both papers, then sought a first-class newspaper man to manage the combine,- someone to work from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M., gather and write news and headlines, make up the paper, and read proof. Mr. Hatch became impatient,- he wanted to go to Florida for the winter. Miss Osband

told him a recent Normal graduate had sold his paper in Indiana and had returned to study medicine at the University of Michigan. She suggested, "Perhaps for a few months..." Well, that is how George C. Handy became connected with the paper.

For a year they crowded all the material into a four-page sheet called The Ypsilantian, until that paper's subscription list ran out. Several local girls were employed to gather society news. Most successful of these was Jean McNicol, who had helped on the Normal News and Ann Arbor papers. I must give much credit for the earlier data in this paper to Miss Marna Osband and her remarkable memory. She has been with us more than 50 years and she tells me she has but to squint her eyes and she can see whole pages of these successive papers in detail, and remember even the fine print. The paper now was called the Daily Ypsilantian Press. At the top of the page was the line "Help maintain Ypsilanti industrially to its high standard educationally--Read the daily paper--Be a booster." This line of linotype was there not so much to encourage people to read as to be the victim of the big flat-bed duplex press. The cylinder of the press would leap onto the type form hitting that line, wearing it and saving the expensive copper signature below it.

In 1918 Mrs. Stella Housman and John B. Hubbard, now a Presbyterian minister, constituted the office staff. In 1908 Mr. Handy purchased the paper. In September, 1917, the Press was moved from the Board of Commerce Building to the structure opposite the Martha Washington Theater at the northwest corner of Pearl and Washington. In the midst of this moving they hired the writer of this sketch, already a newspaper man of long experience, having issued a newspaper in longhand at the age of seven! Being kept after school for this temerity, forgotten, and locked in for the week-end, I crawled out of a second-story window late at night and made my way home via roof, barrel, fence, box, and ground.

During World War I the job of make-up man was thrilling. Three of us put out the paper. Jay Williams was pressman, Bill Hayden, linotypist. The composing room was the club room for business men, and we were host to them all. Those Liberty Bond pages, mailed to us in the form of lead plates! We put the sponsor's name at the bottom in big type. The pages were all pen drawings similar to the "Four Freedoms" pictures. The day the war closed we put out three extras early in the morning, and devoted the rest of the day to victory parades. Clarence Holley was advertising man. In bitter weather he wore high-topped boots and mackinaw and hunter's cap with ear flaps. It was before the day of the closed car with heater.

When Mr. T. O. Huckle came as advertising manager he enlarged the pages called "Market Basket," the combined ads of all grocers, butchers, and bakers. We ran many auction ads in those days. In the twenties the columns of the rural correspondents were at their height.

Labor Day, 1921, the Ypsilantian-Press moved into the present building at the northwest corner of Huron and Pearl. The paper was renamed The Ypsilanti Daily Press.

In June, 1920, a sailor applied for a job, still wearing his sailor-suit. We still have him; R. C. (Shorty) Starr is pressman. He is active in Legion circles and has been Commander of the Washtenaw County Post. Norman Evans, make-up man in 1921, is still with us. Arthur Tinkler was editor for a short time. For a while we had Judson Grenell, retired editor of the Detroit News and inventor of the comic strip and Sunday comics supplement (especially his stories of Joe Bedore's hotel, which popularized the St. Clair Flats). At Grenell's retirement, Miss Harriet Carr became city editor and remained until 1935. About 1926, Miss Eileen Harrison, a graduate under Prof. John L. Brumm of the University School of Journalism, became an affiliate; when Miss Carr left for a big city paper, Miss Harrison became, and still is, city editor. Mr. Handy has a faculty for building up a staff of key employees who stay with him. There are eight of us whose duration at the Press averages 22 years.

In 1928, the Press purchased the Ypsilanti Record and assimilated its subscription list.

Our paper in my time has changed from a four-page paper with a lot of boiler plate in it to a thriving, live sheet that carries Associated Press, United Press, and I.N.S. services, direct wire to Associated Press. Of advertising managers there have been, notably, T. O. Huckle, Ted Bennett, Roger Newcomer (now with a Battle Creek paper), Lloyd Alban (with the Monroe Evening News).

Looking into the future, while we don't exactly what will come after the war, we do know that a newspaper grows exactly in proportion as it serves the people and fails in proportion as it serves its own private uses. Our newest department is Public Relations, under the directorship of Olin C. Eckley, once organizer and secretary of the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce. We visualize that our chance to serve future decades should be greatly increased, in view of our unique position in American affairs reflected by the prominence of the words "Ypsilanti" and "Willow Run" in national publications.

Ann Arbor, Michigan
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